

DECEMBER 28, 1808.

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Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Friday next.

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## A Bill,

Making provision for the discharge of certain unsatisfied claims against the United States.

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1 Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the*  
2 *United States of America, in congress assembled,* That all persons,  
3 or the legal representatives of persons, having claims against the  
4 United States, for services of any kind rendered, or supplies of  
5 any kind furnished, for the use of the United States, prior to the  
6 fourth day of March, in the year one thousand seven hundred  
7 and eighty-nine, which have heretofore been barred, or supposed  
8 to be barred, by any resolutions or laws of Congress, shall be  
9 allowed to make their respective claims to the accounting of-  
10 ficers of the treasury department, who are hereby authorized to  
11 liquidate and settle the same in manner hereinafter directed; *Pro-*  
12 *vided* such claims are duly supported to the satisfaction of such  
13 accounting officers, by the oaths or affirmations of two disinterest-  
14 ed and credible witnesses, or of some one of the commissioned

15 officers of the division, brigade, regiment or company, to which  
 16 such person belonged, or to whom such supplies were furnished,  
 17 which oaths or affirmations shall state the nature and extent of the  
 18 services performed or supplies furnished ; *And provided also*, that  
 19 such claimant or claimants shall make oath or affirm, that he, she or  
 20 they do not know, believe or suspect that the said claim, or any  
 21 part thereof, has been before paid to any person, or in any man-  
 22 ner whatever.

1     Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all persons, or the  
 2 legal representatives of persons, in whose favor settlements have  
 3 been made at the treasury of the United States, or who stand cre-  
 4 dited on the books of the treasury, which credits or settlements  
 5 were made for services or supplies, done or furnished prior to the  
 6 fourth day of March, in the year one thousand seven hundred and  
 7 eighty-nine, and have not since been funded or paid ; and all per-  
 8 sons who served in the armies of the United States in the revo-  
 9 lutionary war, and to whom arrearages of pay, clearly appearing  
 10 on the muster and pay-rolls, or other authentic document now ex-  
 11 isting in the war-office yet to be due, or their legal representa-  
 12 tive or representatives, shall be allowed to make their respective  
 13 claims at the treasury, and the same shall be liquidated and set-  
 14 tled, in the manner herein after directed ; *Provided* the person or  
 15 persons who make such claim shall make oath or affirm, that he,  
 16 she or they, do not know, believe or suspect, that such claim, or  
 17 any part thereof, has been before paid to any person, or in any  
 18 manner whatever.

1    Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That when any claim for ser-  
 2 vices rendered, or supplies furnished as aforesaid, shall be pre-  
 3 sented at the treasury department, it shall be accompanied with  
 4 the oath of the claimant or claimants, that he, she or they, have  
 5 not sold or disposed of the same, or any part thereof, but that the  
 6 whole amount is intended for his, her, or their use and benefit.

1    Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That all evidence taken in  
 2 pursuance of the provisions of this act, shall be taken before  
 3 some judge or justice of the United States, or some judge or jus-  
 4 tice of a superior or supreme court of some one of the states,  
 5 whose certificates of the oaths or affirmations made as aforesaid,  
 6 shall be of no effect, unless accompanied by the certificate also of  
 7 such judge or justice, that he has reason to believe that the per-  
 8 sons making such oaths or affirmations are entitled to credit and  
 9 belief; nor unless such certificates of the oaths or affirmations as  
 10 aforesaid shall be transmitted by such judge or justice under seal,  
 11 directed to the secretary of the treasury, together with his certi-  
 12 ficate of the credibility of such person or persons so making oath  
 13 or affirmation; it shall however be lawful for such judge or jus-  
 14 tice to permit such claimant to take a copy of such affidavits and  
 15 certificates, if he shall desire to do so.

1    Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That for all claims presented  
 2 and proved according to the foregoing provisions of this act, it  
 3 shall be the duty of the secretary of the treasury to issue certi-  
 4 ficates for the same to such claimant, according to the usual form

5 and rules prescribed by the treasury department, and to the  
 6 amount of the specie value of such claim, computing interest on  
 7 the same from the fourth day of March, in the year one thou-  
 8 sand seven hundred and ninety-nine, up to the first day of Janu-  
 9 ary, in the year one thousand eight hundred and nine, purporting  
 10 that the United States owe to such claimant or claimants, his,  
 11 her, or their assigns, the sum which shall be so ascertained to be  
 12 due, with interest at the rate of six per centum per annum, to  
 13 commence thereon from the first day of January, in the year one  
 14 thousand eight hundred and nine, and payable quarter yearly at  
 15 the treasury of the United States, or at some one of the loan-offi-  
 16 ces to which **such certificate shall be transferred: *Provided***, that  
 17 it shall be lawful for the United States to discharge the whole  
 18 amount of such certificate, or any part thereof, at any time, three  
 19 months previous notice being given by the secretary of the trea-  
 20 sury of such intended discharge.

1    *Sec. 6. And be it further enacted*, That the holder or holders  
 2 of loan-office certificates, final settlement notes, or indents of in-  
 3 terest, issued under the authority of the congress of the United  
 4 States, shall be allowed to present the same at the treasury of the  
 5 United States, where the same shall be liquidated according to  
 6 their specie value, computing interest on such certificates or notes  
 7 as carry interest on the face of the same, from the time they several-  
 8 ly purport to do so up to the first day of January, in the year one  
 9 thousand eight hundred and nine, for which amount so liquidated  
 10 it shall be the duty of the secretary of the treasury to issue certi-

11 ficates, in the same form, bearing the same rate of interest, com-  
 12 mencing at the same time, and payable in the same manner, as  
 13 those certificates mentioned in the fifth section of this act: *And*  
 14 *provided also*, that it shall be lawful for the United States to dis-  
 15 charge the whole amount of such certificate, or any part thereof,  
 16 at any time, three months previous notice being given by the se-  
 17 cretary of the treasury of such intended discharge.

1    Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the forms of the power  
 2 of attorney, which may be given for the purpose of obtaining such  
 3 certificates from the treasury, or receiving the interest which shall  
 4 accrue thereon, shall be the same as are now used, or as have been  
 5 used for similar purposes at the treasury department, and no pow-  
 6 er of attorney given for the purpose of obtaining such certificate  
 7 shall be valid, unless proved by at least one credible witness, or  
 8 acknowledged by the party making such power before some judge  
 9 or justice of the United States, or some judge or justice of the su-  
 10 perior or supreme courts of some one of the states, and by him  
 11 certified accordingly.

1    Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That any person wilfully  
 2 swearing or affirming falsely to any matter or thing, to establish  
 3 which an oath or affirmation is necessary by the provisions of  
 4 this act, shall suffer the pains and penalties of wilful and cor-  
 5 rupt perjury, and may be prosecuted for the same in any court  
 6 in the United States having competent jurisdiction.

1    Sec. 9. This act shall continue in force for and during the  
 2 term of                   years from the passing thereof, and no longer.